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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/565,786

04/25/2006

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F-8960

7542

28107 7590 06/23/2009
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EXAMINER

WANG, CHUN CHENG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1796

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

06/23/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/565,786	Applicant(s) ASAOKA ET AL.	
	Examiner Chun-Cheng Wang	Art Unit 1796	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 March 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8, 12-15 and 17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8, 12-15 and 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the Amendment filed on 03/06/2009. Claims 1-5, 9-11 and 16 have been cancelled. Claims 6-8, 12-15 and 17 are now pending.
2. The objections and rejections not addressed below are deemed withdrawn.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this section can be found in a prior Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 17, 6-7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Poncelet et al. (US 5888711) in view of Yasuhiro et al. (JP2001-104711) and further in view of Hasegawa et al. (US 4923629).

The rejections stand as per the reasons set forth in paragraphs 11 and 13 of the previous Office Action, incorporated herein by reference.

5. Claims 8 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Poncelet et al. (US 5888711) in view of Yasuhiro et al. (JP2001-104711).

The rejections stand as per the reasons set forth in paragraph 14 of the previous Office Action, incorporated herein by reference.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 03/06/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. See paragraphs 4-5.
7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 17 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Poncelet et al. (US 5888711) have been considered. The previously applied reference Poncelet et al. is withdrawn due to combined limitations from claims 3-5 and 16-17.

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8. Applicants allege: “Poncelet et al. (US 5888711) neither teaches nor suggests that acetic acid, ammonium acetate, and ammonium chloride might be advantageously employed to inhibit gelatinization of silicic flocculants at less-dangerous pH”.

Response: Attention is drawn to previous office action paragraph 13, line 7. Poncelet et al. disclose using acetic acid (see Example 1).

9. Applicants allege: “ The fact that ammonium hydroxide was a know source of hydroxide in making the silicic component of a silicate-base flocculant is a teaching or suggestion that, once formed, gelation of a silicic colloid could be inhibited ammonium acetate (a much weaker base than ammonium hydroxide) or by ammonium chloride (a Lewis acid)”.

Response: Poncelet et al. disclose using one of the acid, acetic acid, required in claim 17. Poncelet et al. further disclose adding ammonia solution (Example 2) which would react with acetic acid to form ammonium acetate.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chun-Cheng Wang whose telephone number is (571)270-5459.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday w/alternate Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on 571-272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ling-Siu Choi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1796
/CCW/

/Chun-Cheng Wang/
Examiner, Art Unit 4171